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UDALL FOUNDATION'S NATIONAL BIODIESEL BUS TOUR BRINGS ITS PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE HOME TO TUCSON AUGUST 4

REPS. GRIJALVA, GIFFORDS, UDALL EXPECTED TO WELCOME UDALL SCHOLARS FROM 7-WEEK TRIP HIGHLIGHTING SUSTAINABLE CITIES, NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES AND BIOFUELS

TUCSON -- Thirteen young Udall Scholars will roll into Tucson on August 4 for the conclusion of their two-month journey across the United States promoting public service and the legacy of the late Congressman Morris K. Udall.

Reps. Raul Grijalva and Gabrielle Giffords, both D-Arizona, and Rep. Tom Udall, D-New Mexico, are expected to speak at the 5:30 p.m. welcome event, which will be at the downtown Tucson headquarters of the Morris K. Udall Foundation, 130 S. Scott Ave. The Foundation organized the Udall Legacy Biodiesel Bus Tour as part of a yearlong "Celebration of Public Service" marking the 10th anniversary of the Foundation's education programs.

Vice Mayor Shirley Scott will speak on behalf of the City of Tucson, which is a co-sponsor of the Udall Legacy Biodiesel Bus Tour.

Since a June 12 kickoff at the U.S. Capitol, the Udall Tour has covered lots of ground:

- 8,606 miles
- 54 days
- 26 cities
- 6 national parks
- 6 Native American communities

The Tour traveled in the first motor coach approved by the University of Vermont's pilot "Green Coach Certification" program. The bus is fueled by a blend of 20% biodiesel and 80% ultra low sulfur diesel, and carbon offsets purchased through NativeEnergy helped the Foundation reach its goal of hosting a carbon-neutral tour.

Along the way, the riders – all past recipients of the Udall Foundation's undergraduate scholarship – worked to highlight young people and communities nationwide that are finding solutions to environmental and Native American concerns. They also participated in some of the almost 60 public service projects created and implemented by alumni of the Foundation's scholarship, fellowship and internship programs as part of the Celebration of Public Service.

Among the public service projects featured during the Tour:

- Post-industrial ecologically landscaped shoreline parks in Manhattan and Brooklyn, NY;

- Removing invasive species and replanting native species along the Bronx River in the Bronx, NY;
- Sorting a warehouse of cast-off bicycles in Chicago with Working Bikes, a non-profit that helps divert waste from landfills by rebuilding and shipping used bicycles to communities in need in the U.S. and abroad;
- A visit to the United Houma Nation, a 17,000-member tribal community located throughout the bayou settlements of St. Mary, Terrebonne, Lafourche, Jefferson, and St. Bernard Parishes in Louisiana, where the riders met with tribal leaders and learned about the devastation of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, as well tribal history and its struggle for federal recognition.
- Farm-to-college programs that provide local food and support for local businesses at the dining halls of the University of Montana (Missoula, MT) and Salish Kootenai College (Pablo, MT);
- Exploring national parks through photography with local youth in Acadia, Grand Teton, and Redwood National Parks. (More information on Parks in Focus, which combines environmental education with the art of photography, can be found at <http://www.udall.gov/udall.asp?link=500>.)

In Tucson, Udall Legacy Tour riders and other scholars will promote energy conservation in cooperation with Habitat for Humanity Tucson and Tucson Electric Power, on Sunday, August 5, by visiting residents of Habitat's Balboa-Laguna neighborhood and replacing incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient and long-lasting compact fluorescent bulbs. This event will help Habitat continue its own effort to use "green" building strategies whenever possible.

In addition to the City of Tucson, sponsors of the Udall Legacy Biodiesel Bus Tour include: the Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Transportation, U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (a program of the Udall Foundation), University of Vermont, Lamoille Valley Transportation, Caterpillar Inc., the Bert W. Martin Foundation and Motor Coach Industries, which donated use of a new motor coach. Each sponsor contributed at least \$10,000 in cash or in-kind value.

Established by Congress, the Morris K. Udall Foundation awards the premier merit-based scholarships, fellowships and internships for studies related to the environment and Native American policy in the United States. Since 1996, the Foundation has awarded 916 scholarships, 22 Ph.D. fellowships, and has placed 138 Native American interns in Congressional and Executive Branch offices. The Foundation includes the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, which provides mediation and related services to help resolve federal environmental disputes nationwide.

Congress created the Foundation to honor the legacy of the late Congressman Morris K. Udall, who represented Southern Arizona in Congress from 1961 to 1991. Udall was a national leader on environmental and Native American issues and chaired the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs for more than 10 years. He ran for President in 1976, losing the Democratic nomination to Jimmy Carter.

For more information, including the tour itinerary and specific activities at each stop, see www.udall.gov.